

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11 INR-10

LAB-06 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SIL-01 AGR-20 CEA-02 DODE-00

FRB-02 H-03 INT-08 L-03 NSC-10 PA-04 AID-20 CIEP-02

SS-20 STR-08 TAR-02 TRSE-00 USIA-15 PRS-01 SPC-03

FEA-02 OMB-01 DRC-01 /196 W
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R 181750Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6194

USMISSION GENEVA

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY ROME

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PLAB

SUBJECT: SEGUY ON EAST-WEST TRADE UNION COOPERATION

1. SUMMARY:*CGT SECRETARY GENERAL SEGUY ON JANUARY 16 TOLD REPORTERS THAT JANUARY 19 EAST-WEST TRADE UNION MEETING AT GENEVA IS "MAJOR EVENT" AND OPPORTUNE OCCASION TO PROMOTE UNITY OF ACTION "TO MEET CONCRETE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL PROBLEMS IN WESTERN EUROPE". SEGUY SAID, FURTHER, THAT ETUC IS APT FORUM FOR "REGROUPMENT" OF TRADE UNION MOVEMENT, AND THAT INTERNATIONAL TRADE SECRETARIATS (ITS) HAVE MAJOR ROLE TO PLAY IN PROMOTING UNITY OF ACTION. END SUMMARY.

2. RESPONDING TO QUESTIONS BY LE MONDE REPORTER JANUARY 16, CGT SECRETARY GENERAL GEORGES SEGUY SAID, IN RESUME:

3. EAST-WEST TRADE UNION MEETING IS EVENT OF MAJOR IMPORTANCE FOR EUROPEAN WORKERS, AN EVENT WITHOUT PRECEDENT LAST 28 YEARS.

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EXISTING DIFFERENCES SHOULD BE FREELY DISCUSSED AND NOT ALLOWED TO

STAND AS OBSTACLES TO DEFENSE OF COMMON INTERESTS OF ALL WORKERS. AT GENEVA, CGT WILL ATTEMPT TO PROMOTE COOPERATION IN SPIRIT OF MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING AND RESPECT FOR INDEPENDENCE OF EACH ORGANIZATION. THERE EXISTS A WIDE AREA FOR "UNITY OF ACTION" IN WESTERN EUROPE WHERE THE TRADE UNION MOVEMENT IS CONFRONTED WITH CONCRETE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL PROBLEMS.

4. THE CGT HAS ALWAYS REGARDED ETUC AS A FORUM WITH POTENTIAL FOR "REGROUPING" OF TRADE UNION MOVEMENT. FOR THIS REASON, CGT HAS SOUGHT TO DETERMINE ON WHAT TERMS IT MIGHT AFFILIATE WITH THAT ORGANIZATION. IT SEEMS THAT DISAFFILIATION FROM PRESENT INTERNATIONAL FEDERATIONS WILL NOT BE MADE A CONDITION OF ACCEPTANCE. THE CGT HAS BEEN WAITING FOR SIX MONTHS, HOWEVER, TO LEARN WHETHER AN OFFICIAL REQUEST FOR AFFILIATION WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE AND WHETHER, IF ACCEPTED, THE CGT WOULD BE ALLOWED NORMAL REPRESENTATION IN THE GOVERNING BODIES OF THAT ORGANIZATION. THESE QUESTIONS CAN PROBABLY BE SATISFACTORILY RESOLVED. MEANWHILE, HOWEVER, MAJOR PROBLEMS OF COMMON INTEREST ARE PRESSING: WORKING CONDITIONS, IMMIGRATION, THE HARMONIZATION OF SOCIAL SECURITY SCHEMES, AND THE PROBLEM OF MULTINATIONAL FIRMS. TRADE UNION COOPERATION HAS NEVER BEEN AS IMPORTANT AS TODAY.

5. THE INTERNATIONAL TRADE SECRETARIATS HAVE A MAJOR ROLE TO PLAY IN UNITY OF ACTION. A BEGINNING HAS BEEN MADE, BUT BETTER AND MORE SYSTEMATIC COORDINATION IS REQUIRED. AN EXAMPLE OF EFFECTIVE ACTION IN THIS AREA IS THE CGT'S FEDERATION OF TYPO-GRAPHERS (FEDERATION DE LIVRE) WHICH IS ACTIVE WITHIN THE INTERNATIONAL

GRAPHICAL FEDERATION (IGF) WHICH, IN TURN IS CLOSELY ASSOCIATED WITH THE ICFTU. IF THE GENEVA MEETING CAN FACILITATE COOPERATION AT THIS LEVEL, IT WILL HAVE RESPONDED TO THE NEEDS AND ASPIRATIONS OF WORKERS AND WOULD, IN A SENSE, MARK THE BEGINNING OF A "WORKERS EUROPE".

6. COMMENT: SOME MIGHT ASCRIBE TO SOVIET PRESSURE OR DISCIPLINE, SEGUY'S STATEMENT HEARALDING 19 JANUARY MEETING AS MAJOR EUROPEAN EVENT. IN OUR VIEW, SEGUY, AND PERHAPS OTHER CGT LEADERS AS WELL, ARE PERSONALLY CONVINCED THAT THE MEETING IS HISTORICALLY IMPORTANT, AND ARE COMMITTED FOR THEIR OWN REASONS TO THE CONCEPT OF A "WORKERS EUROPE".
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7. SEGUY'S INTERVIEW MAKES MORE EXPLICIT CGT DECISION TO ENTER ETUC BUT, AS WE HAVE PREVIOUSLY REPORTED, CGT IS NOT SOLICITING SUCH ENTRY AT ANY PRICE. IN CONTRAST TO CGIL, CGT WILL NOT SEVER RELATIONS WITH WFTU IN ORDER TO MAKE ITS AFFILIATION WITH ETUC MORE ACCEPTABLE. CGT (READ FRENCH) PRIDE HAS SOMETHING TO DO WITH THIS POSITION WHICH IS PROBABLY NOT NEGOTIABLE.

8. NEW AND SIGNIFICANT ELEMENT IN INTERVIEW IS SEGUY'S
EMPHASIS ON ROLE ITS CAN PLAY IN PROMOTING EUROPEAN LABOR UNITY.
AS DEPARTMENT AWARE, ADMISSION OF CGT PRINTERS UNION INTO
IGF BROUGHT ABOUT DISAFFILIATION THERE FROM OF FO PRINTERS UNION.
NEW EMPHASIS ON ITS SUGGESTS THAT, WITH OR WITHOUT COORDINATION
BETWEEN SOVIETS AND THE CGT, ALL STOPS HAVE BEEN PULLED OUT TO
INFILTRATE DEMOCRATIC LABOR ORGANIZATIONS UNDER GUISE OF SHAPING
A "WORKERS EUROPE".
STONE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: EAST WEST TRADE, LABOR RELATIONS, ECONOMIC COOPERATION, LABOR UNIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 18 JAN 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974PARIS01611
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: PARIS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740132/aaaabdpm.tel
Line Count: 124
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: morefirh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24 APR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <24 APR 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <28 MAY 2002 by morefirh>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SEGUY ON EAST-WEST TRADE UNION COOPERATION
TAGS: ELAB
To: STATE GENEVA
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005